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Post Scripts

5 Stars or Ex? ... Dead and the Quick 2 Brother Acts ... Posters Bear Down

These five notices to the week's news have been gathered by reporters of The Washington Post.

A bill has been introduced in the House to give back to Dwight D. Eisenhower his old rank of five-star general, which he lost when he resigned from the Army to run for President in 1952.

The former Chief Executive told reporters at his last news conference here on Jan. 18 that it would be a "satisfying thing" to get back his Army rank. He said that some of his Democratic friends on the Hill had promised to get it back for him.

However, it was Rep. James G. Fulton, a Pennsylvania Republican, who introduced the bill to accomplish that purpose. Fulton left open the question of retirement pay, putting it up to General Eisenhower to tell the House Armed Services Committee whether he wants a presidential pension or the military pay to which he would be entitled.

The most important thing, Rep. Fulton says, is to give the old soldier-statesman a "current" position and get him off the shelf of has-beens.

"I think he would rather be an Army private than an ex-President," Fulton says.

This may seem farfetched, but in telling reporters on Jan. 18 that he would like to have back his military title, President Eisenhower grinned and remarked: "How do you say 'Mr. Ex-President'?"

The newest story out of the Soviet Union harks back to the days when Khrushchev visited the United States and a return trip by Mr. Eisenhower was in the cards. On the American visit, the story has it, Mr. Eisenhower boasted "I was an American" who could raise men "dead. Not to be outdone, Khrushchev boasted "I was a Russian" who could run "a mile an hour."

fided to Mikeyan that he was in a dilemma; Ike was coming to the U.S.S.R. and would demand to see product of the Soviet Premier's braggadoole. What to do?

"Easy," Mikeyan told Khrushchev. "Tell Ike to bring the man who can raise the dead. Let him raise Stalin. Then you'll be the man who runs 90 miles an hour."

The Kennedy Administration will do even better than the Eisenhower Administration in at least one respect: it will have two brother acts instead of one.

In most of the Eisenhower years a lot was heard of brothers John Foster Dulles, the late Secretary of State, and Allen W. Dulles, then and now the boss of the Central Intelligence Agency. The new Administration has topped that with the combination of President Kennedy and brother Robert as Attorney General.

But there also will be a Bundy brother act: McGeorge Bundy, former Harvard dean who is the President's special assistant for national security affairs, and his brother, William P. Bundy, deputy to Paul H. Nitze, the new Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs. William Bundy, a son-in-law of former Secretary of State Dean Acheson, worked for Allen Dulles until last year when he was executive secretary of the Eisenhower-appointed National Goals Committee.

President Kennedy's clampdown on military men talking tough about Russia in being obeyed, but it hasn't shut off all comment about the dangers of "coexistence" with the Soviets.

Anonymous posters appeared on some Pentagon bulletin boards last week, headlined: "Beware the Truce of the Bear." They showed a large bear, bearing a hammer and sickle on his breast, standing menacingly over his blind legs. Below were the following lines of Rudyard Kipling:

ing in wavering man-brute guise

"When he tells the hate and cunning of his little awn-ish eyes

"When he shows as seeking quarter with paws like hands in prayer,

"That is the time of peril—the time of the truce of the bear."

Adm. Arleigh A. Burke issued an unusual internal memo last week denying to subordinates that Navy leaders are "unhappy" about the makeup of Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara's task forces considering revision in strategy and defense spending.

The Chief of Naval Operations said that "rumors" that top Navy men feel "there are too many Rand officials on the task groups are 'not true.'"

There were some raised eyebrows at the Pentagon when McNamara borrowed a number of scientists and experts from the Rand Corporation—the Air Force's operational research agency—to help with the reappraisal of strategic weapon systems that is headed by Assistant Defense Secretary Charles J. Hitch, a former Rand chief.

In telling Navy men to button their lips on such talk, Burke said the top new Pentagon officials are trying to be objective and are doing well with a difficult assignment. The Navy, he made plain, is willing to rely on the merits of its case without crying foul.

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